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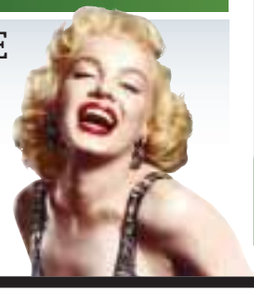
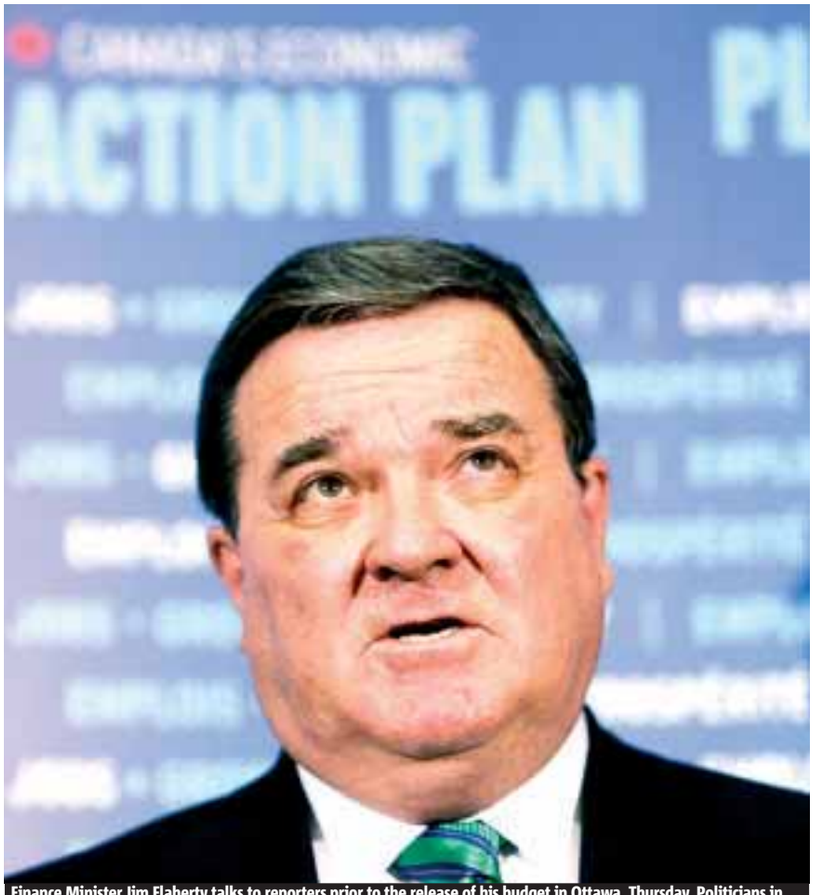
BEAUTY AND THE BELLE CURVE

OUR CULTURE'S TRANSIENT NOTION OF BEAUTY MEANS THERE ARE NO REAL ICONS FOR WOMEN TO EMULATE. AND THAT'S PROBABLY A GOOD THING PAGES 12 & 13





Finance Minister Jim Flaherty talks to reporters prior to the release of his budget in Ottawa, Thursday. Politicians in Saskatchewan offered their thoughts on what they saw as positives and negatives in the government's spending plan. More budget coverage, page 8. FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mixed reviews in province for federal budget

What does plan mean for Sask.? Wall sees positive step for growth agenda, while Goodale decries 'trivial' measures to improve jobs

JEFF MACKEY
Metro in Regina

Thursday was budget day on Parliament Hill and, as the government unveiled how it plans to spend taxpayers' dollars over the next year, politicos of all stripes quickly debated the implications of the 433-page document.

Among those chiming in on the federal budget were Saskatchewan politicians.

"Saskatchewan's interests today are about the labour shortage we have and about infrastructure," said Premier Brad Wall. "The federal government has moved on that, so on the face of that we think it is positive and it will help us with our growth agenda."

But not all the province's politicians share Wall's view of the budget.

"The measures that are there in the budget to improve infrastructure or improve jobs are really very trivial," said Ralph Goodale, Liberal MP for Wascana. "The government's only discernible goal is to politically be able to claim they have been able to balance the budget by 2015-2016.

"We essentially have people without jobs and jobs without people and the government has basically said that they aren't going to do a damn thing about it for another two years."

Mayor pleased

'New news' & 'good news'

Mayor Don Atchison said he was happily surprised by the federal budget.

"There was a lot of new news and a lot of good news," he said. "Cities have been ... asking for long-term sustainable funding and that's certainly in place today."

Atchison said there are quite a few new programs announced in the budget, such as indexing the gas tax, that could go toward a variety of civic projects and new infrastructure builds currently in the works like the north commuter bridge.

JANE CAULFIELD/METRO

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NEWS 1

Province to get first new women's shelter since 1989

Budget. Government has set aside $1.3M to fund 16-bed transition house in Melfort, as well as other shelters across the province

JEFF MACKEY
jeff.mackey@metronews.ca

The Saskatchewan government has set aside money in its provincial budget to build the first new women's shelter in the province since 1989.

"This is the first time since 1989 that we have had any new beds for the transitional homes for women," said Minister of Social Services June Draude. "We have $1.3 million all together between capital and operational funding that will not only support our new facility in Melfort, but also there is funding for other facilities, like (in) Saskatoon, Regina and Prince Albert."

The new facility will serve the northeast portion of the province.

"We have been lobbying for this facility since ... September of 2010," said Louise Schweitzer, executive director of North East Outreach & Support Services. "It is a direct need. We do not currently have shelter services for the women of our region and this covers a large portion of the province."

The announcement comes after a Statistics Canada report, released in February, showed that violence against women in Saskatchewan was almost double the national rate.

"I don't think we've reached this point in our province in a day and we are not going to fix it in a day," said Schweitzer. "We need to become very aggressive in our awareness and combating this issue in the province."

The Melfort transition house will be a 16-bed crisis service centre for women and their children fleeing interpersonal violence and abuse.

Minister of Social Services June Draude speaks to the media after the release of the 2013-14 budget on Wednesday afternoon. JEFF MACKEY/METRO

School funding

Education minister defends spending on K to Grade 12

Saskatchewan Education Minister Russ Marchuk is defending the province's spending on kindergarten to Grade 12.

Marchuk says there's $17 million more in the new budget to help schools deal with the pressure of increasing enrolment and there's also money for up to 40 portables this fall.

The Opposition NDP questioned education spending in the legislature, one day after the budget was tabled.

NDP Leader Cam Broten says classes are too big and teachers and school boards are struggling to stretch resources.

The Saskatchewan School Boards Association has said the budget represents the status quo for school boards.

Association president Janet Foord says the government is at best maintaining funding, not adding more resources, and there isn't enough to close the achievement gap between aboriginal and non-aboriginal students. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Coming in September

NHL bringing exhibition games to Saskatoon

Saskatoon's Credit Union Centre will be hosting two NHL exhibition games come September.

The Ottawa Senators will face off against the Calgary Flames on Sept. 16 and the Winnipeg Jets will be playing the Boston Bruins on Sept. 27.

Saskatoon Blades season-ticket holders will have the first chance to buy tickets on Friday morning, followed by a pre-sale where fans can buy an NHL game ticket with a Blades ticket prior to the general sale starting Wednesday, March 27. METRO

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Saskatchewan artist's unique legislature piece turns heads

Happy 65th. Rooster decorates corridor, brings humour

ROSS ROMANIUK
ross.romaniuk@metronews.ca

They add some colour and a little levity to the staid, old legislature.

Dozens of paintings and other works of art have begun adorning the Saskatchewan Legislative Building's corridors in the past week, through some promotional work on behalf of the province's artists.

And some of the pieces supplied by the Saskatchewan Arts Board are doing more than just catching the eye.

A laser-cut steel rooster, the work of renowned artist Joe Fafard, is almost a surreal sight in a gallery amongst the portraits of Saskatchewan's esteemed past premiers.

"It's gotten quite a lot of attention. People just love it," said Peter Sametz, associate executive director of the arts board, adding that he hopes the metallic bird is "not inappropriate, because no rooster has been a premier of the province."

Fafard's large rooster stands out, though it's only one of the works that include 58 paintings and other pieces, such as a wall covering made from computer circuit boards.

The artworks have come to the century-old Regina complex through two board initiatives as the organization marks its 65th anniversary. One is its Creative Play exhibit, while the other is what Sametz calls a five-year art loan to the legislature.

"It helps spruce up the legislature," said Culture Minister Kevin Doherty.

"I've had lots of positive comments from people who have been in these hallways for a long time, and now they see this artwork being displayed and they just think it's fantastic."

A rooster made by artist Joe Fafard out of laser-cut steel is among the eye-catching works of art at the Saskatchewan legislature. ROSS ROMANIUK/METRO

Four years in jail

Woman who tried murdering two kids sentenced

A Saskatchewan woman was sentenced to four years in jail for the attempted murder of two children.

The woman, who cannot be named because of a publication ban, also faces a 10-year weapons ban. She was charged after she and the children were found in a running car inside a closed building in November 2010.

She pleaded guilty last fall. She is getting a one-year credit on her sentence for time she has already spent in custody. The Crown was asking for a punishment of five years, while the defence wanted a two- to three-year sentence.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Swimming skills

Sask. coroner wants more water safety programs for immigrants

A coroner in Saskatchewan wants more water safety programs to target new Canadians after an immigrant man drowned.

Muhammad Naqash Ali drowned at an aquatic centre in Saskatoon last June. The coroner has ruled his death accidental, noting that the 27-year-old Ali was an inexperienced swimmer.

Ali moved to Canada from Pakistan in May 2011 and lived in Ontario before moving to Saskatoon in January 2012.

"This is a very specialized type of issue that we've identified, not only in the province but also in Canada, specific to newcomers to Canada whether they be students, whether they be immigrants, and that is the lack of water skills," said chief coroner Kent Stewart.

Saskatchewan has a growing immigrant population and Stewart notes that people from other countries are four times more likely to drown.

"I think because, number 1, folks that are coming into Canada are not used to being in water recreational activities," said Stewart. "And number 2, they don't have the necessary knowledge about swimming skills, safety and all of those types of things that I think sometimes in Saskatchewan we sort of take for granted."

The coroner is recommending the city, the Lifesaving Society and the Red Cross work together to enhance access to water safety programs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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The Acropolis in Athens with the lights on and off during Earth Hour on March 31, 2012. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Switching off

Earth hour. Hundreds of millions participate in the event, but can 60 minutes a year make a difference?

KIERON MONKS
Metro World News

Be prepared — at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday the lights turn off. From Tokyo to Toronto, Palestine to Papua New Guinea, hundreds of millions of people in more than 150 countries and territories will participate in the world's largest co-ordinated action on climate change, led by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

Organizers state this is a "symbolic" action and there will be no measurement of its impact. But campaigners believe it's important to challenge our relationship with technology.

"People need to see collective action to take the issue seriously," says Peter Madden, CEO of the international group Forum for the Future. "Changes can be attractive if they are re-enforced socially."

With technology increasingly embedded in everyday life, it's time to make smarter choices, says Madden. "The most exciting innovations are making energy use visible. Phone apps can give you data, heaters can learn when they are needed."

The Beyond Zero Emissions group estimates that energy demand could be halved if people replaced their appliances with more efficient models. Patio heaters remain among the worst offenders, and campaigners are aiming for 100 per cent LED lighting.

For hardliners, living off-grid has become increasingly viable. "There is cheaper and more reliable energy available, such as ground-source and mini-turbines — a great alternative to the rising cost of traditional fuel," says Madden.

However, Earth Hour's "global switch-off" concept has also been criticized, and participation and online involvement have dropped off this year.

"It's a particular demographic of younger people in cities that is hard to sustain," says Mike Shanahan of the International Institute for Environment and Development.

"For the green movement to grow it needs to be relevant to daily lives and to local issues."

Criticism

"For the green movement to grow it needs to be relevant to daily lives and to local issues."

Mike Shanahan of the International Institute for Environment and Development

Universe far older than thought, scientists say

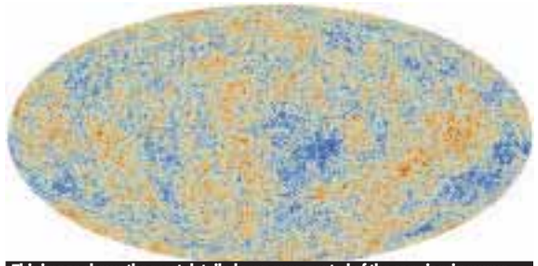
New results from looking at the split-second after the Big Bang indicate the universe is 80 million years older than previously thought and provide ancient evidence supporting core concepts about the cosmos — how it began, what it's made of and where it's going.

The findings released Thursday bolster a key theory called inflation, which says the universe burst from subatomic size to its now-observable expanse in a fraction of a second. The new observations from the European Space Agency's $900-million Planck space probe appear to reinforce some predictions made decades ago solely on the basis of mathematical concepts.

"We've uncovered a fundamental truth of the universe," said the director of the Kavli Institute for Cosmology at the University of Cambridge, George Efstathiou, who announced the satellite result in Paris. "There's less stuff that we don't understand by a tiny amount."

The Planck space probe looked back at the afterglow of the Big Bang, and those results have now added about 80 million years to the universe's age, putting it at 13.81 billion years old.

The Big Bang — the most comprehensive theory of the universe's beginning — says the visible portion of the universe was smaller than an atom when, in a split second, it exploded, cooled and expanded faster than the speed of light. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



This image shows the most detailed map ever created of the cosmic microwave background acquired by the European Space Agency's Planck space telescope.
ESA-PLANCK COLLABORATION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Breaking off

Scotland sets date for vote on independence

Scottish leader Alex Salmond has set Sept. 18, 2014 as the date for an independence referendum that could radically alter the shape of the U.K., calling it a historic opportunity to create a better country.

Salmond said it would be a day when Scotland takes "responsibility for our country, when we are able to speak with our own voice, choose our own direction and contribute in our own distinct way."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Portland, Maine

Man gets jail time for prostitution op at Zumba studio

An insurance agent who helped run a prostitution operation out of his mistress' Zumba studio and watched secretly videotaped sex acts was ordered to spend 20 days in jail in a scandal that rocked a small northeastern town. Prosecutors say Mark Strong Sr. was involved in every facet of the operation with fitness instructor Alexis Wright. Before being sentenced, Mark Strong Sr.'s wife broke down while pleading for leniency. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Milestone

YouTube reaches 1B users a month

YouTube says more than a billion people are now visiting its video site each month to watch everything from clips of cute kittens to scenes of social unrest around the world. The milestone marks another step in YouTube's evolution from a quirky startup launched in 2005 to one of the most influential forces in today's media landscape.

Google bought YouTube for $1.76 billion in 2006 when the site had an estimated 50 million users.
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Police exercise ends in deadly helicopter crash

'There was blood on the ground.' At least one killed after two choppers collide near Berlin stadium as they approached for landing

Rescue workers tend to occupants after two helicopters of the German federal police crashed on a field at the Olympic Stadium in Berlin, Thursday. HANNIBAL HANSCHKE/DPA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Two helicopters clipped each other and crashed as they landed in a snowstorm near Berlin's Olympic Stadium during a federal police exercise on Thursday, leaving one person dead and several injured, German authorities said.

One of the helicopter pilots died at the scene, fire service spokesman Stephan Fleischer said. Five people were injured, four of them seriously, he added.

It wasn't immediately clear whether the injured people were in the helicopters, Fleischer said. He didn't have details on how the accident happened.

Pictures from the scene showed one of the helicopters lying on its side in the snow in a field behind the stadium and the other next to it, still upright.

Eyewitness Johannes Malinowski said on N-tv television that he saw three helicopters approaching and that the snow on the field was being kicked up by the aircraft, so "you couldn't see a whole lot anymore."

Then "there was a big bang and someone shouted, 'Everybody on the ground,'" he said. "And then we looked up and there was blood on the ground."

The police were conducting a training exercise on dealing with football violence.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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More than 100 hurt in massive pileup on an Alberta highway

Weather. Blizzard blasting through the Prairies is being blamed for the crash

ANNALISE KLINGBEIL
Metro in Edmonton

An estimated 100 people were injured in a massive crash involving at least 100 vehicles on a highway near Leduc, Alta.

On Thursday afternoon, Alberta Health Services (AHS) initially said 300 people were en route to hospitals in the Edmonton area as a result of the crash. Shortly after, AHS revised the number to 100.

About 22 people went to area hospitals, including one adult with serious injuries. About 80 others suffered minor to moderate injuries and were treated at the site, where Greyhound buses were used as triage centres.

Edmonton Transit sent four buses to shelter patients on the scene.

"There's probably about 10 different hospitals, maybe more that we're utilizing," said Kerry Williamson, spokesperson for Alberta Health Services.

Paramedics, EMS crews and firefighters trudged through the snow, going from vehicle to vehicle, to check on those inside, Williamson said.

He added the crash spurred a code orange, meaning a mass casualty mode, at local hospitals.

"We haven't dealt with anything like this, but we do have plans," Williamson said.

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

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A pickup truck is sandwiched between two vehicles in a pileup that left more than 100 people injured. A blizzard that has been blasting through the Prairies is being blamed for the multi-vehicle crash on Highway 2, south of Edmonton. DEREK FILDEBRANDT/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

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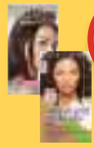

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART

Budget bets on status quo

Federal finance plan. Blueprint adds no new money while largely reshuffling expenses

When Jim Flaherty was a young man, they called it a brake stand — one foot on the gas and one on the brake, creating lots of noise and plumes of blue smoke but moving the vehicle sideways if at all.

Stephen Harper's finance minister is banking that all the torque in his eighth federal budget, delivered Thursday, will propel the Canadian economy forward in a burst sometime next year.

It's all geared to a fall 2015 election date, when Prime Minister Stephen Harper hopes to woo Canadian voters with the first balanced federal budget since 2008.

In the meantime, Flaherty's foot remains firmly on the spending brake in a 2013-14 fiscal blueprint that shuffles priorities, re-allocates resources and cracks down on tax cheats but adds no new money while continuing dramatic cuts to direct program expenses.

The deficit for the current fiscal year that ends in two weeks is projected to be $25.9 billion — exactly as forecast in the fall fiscal update but up significantly from the $21.1 billion posited by Flaherty in last March's budget.

Part of that bump comes from a one-time, $2.4-billion increase in Ottawa's nuclear-cleanup liability.

Total spending, including debt-servicing charges, will rise to $282.6 billion this year, up less than one per cent on the 2012-13 spending envelope of $280.1 billion. That's effectively a cut after inflation and population growth are factored in.

More significantly, direct program expenses — which exclude major transfers to other levels of government — are projected to plunge almost $4 billion this year and another $2.5 billion in 2014-15. The exact nature of those program cuts remains something of a mystery.

"It's very much a status quo budget," said economist Derek Burleton of TD Bank. "Reallocation is a key theme."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Flaherty's mission

Canadians have faith "that their government will be a benign and silent partner in their enterprise, not an overbearing behemoth squeezing them at every turn."

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty to the House of Commons in his budget speech.

Deficit

$25.9B

The deficit for the current fiscal year is projected to be $25.9 billion.

Assumptions

While the budget is deeply conservative, many of its assumptions are not:

- **Fighting tax loopholes and cheats** will rake in half a billion dollars this year and rise to $1.3 billion the next.
- **GST revenues**, up 1.8 per cent in 2012-13, will grow 4.9 per cent a year.
- **Corporate tax revenue** will jump by 5.5 per cent a year, on average.

5 things to know about the budget

1 It'll get you the skills to pay the bills

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty THE CANADIAN PRESS

The key feature is the Canada Job Grant. According to the budget, the grant "could provide $15,000 or more per person" for short-term training. Only $5,000 would be contributed by the federal government, with matching contributions coming from provinces and employers. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

2 The outside world under one tent

The Canadian International Development Agency, which performs aid work in developing countries, will be swallowed up by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

The new entity will be called the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development. The government says it "will continue to serve the same functions as the old departments." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CIDA, with the Canadian Red Cross, provided these winterized tents to earthquake-hit Turkey in 2011.

CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

3 Billions to back building boom

The Conservative government is devoting $14 billion over a decade by renewing a deal that helps cities invest in infrastructure.

"Infrastructure creates jobs, supports trade and fuels economic growth," Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said.

The new Building Canada Fund will replace a seven-year deal set to expire next year and give provincial and municipal governments time to plan and to figure out how to match the funding.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ISTOCK

4 Can't afford to stay active AND clothe your baby? Feds have you covered

The federal government is cutting tariffs on baby clothing and athletic equipment in hopes the price breaks trickle down to consumers.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty announced the $76-million cut in reaction to ongoing discrepancies between Canada and the U.S. "Some products consistently cost more in Canada compared to the exact same products sold in the United States," the budget said.

The tariff cut applies to baby clothing and sports and athletic equipment, such as ice skates, hockey equipment, skis, snowboards and golf clubs. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ISTOCK

5 Call it the "judge-it" budget

Political opponents were not kind to the plan.

NDP Leader Tom Mulcair called it a "shell-game con job," and Green Party Leader Elizabeth May dubbed it the "fudge-it budget."

"The propaganda machine is going to be working overtime, because they've repackaged and put together some old programs and given them new names," groused Bob Rae, the interim Liberal leader.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NDP Leader Tom Mulcair

New law in India hailed as a victory for women

Women's rights. Stalking, voyeurism and sexual harassment among the targets of the legislation

India's Parliament passed a sweeping new law Thursday to protect women against sexual violence in response to a fatal December gang rape and beating of a young woman on a bus in New Delhi.

The new law, which still requires the president's signature before it becomes official, makes stalking, voyeurism and sexual harassment a crime. It also provides for the death penalty for repeat offenders or for rape attacks that lead to the victim's death. The law makes it a crime for police to refuse to open cases when they receive complaints of sexual attacks.

Activists hailed the law as a milestone even as they raised concerns over certain provisions. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Milestone

The law was hurried through Parliament after a gang rape on a bus in December sparked nationwide protests demanding the government do more to safeguard women.

- But the government's refusal to criminalize marital rape was criticized.

Peace is possible: Obama

U.S. President Barack Obama waves as he leaves the stage after speaking at the International Convention Center in Jerusalem on Thursday. Obama insisted "peace is possible," prodding Israelis and Palestinians to return to negotiations with few, if any, pre-conditions.

CAROLYN KASTER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Commons

MPs motion to condemn sex selection abortion ruled non-votable

A Conservative MP's bid to have Parliament condemn the practice of sex-selective abortion has been short-circuited.

A House of Commons sub-committee that oversees private members' business has deemed Mark Warawa's motion to be non-votable. That means the non-binding motion will not be debated, much less voted upon, sparing Stephen Harper from another embarrassing split in Conservative ranks over an issue the PM has promised his government won't re-open. Warawa is vowing to appeal what he calls the sub-committee's "shocking and undemocratic decision." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Egypt

Women's group critical of Muslim Brotherhood

Egypt's official women's rights council says Islamists who reject a UN blueprint to combat violence against women and girls are promoting the idea that Islam favours violence against women. Last week, 131 countries at the United Nations approved the non-binding document to combat violence against women and girls. Egypt's ruling Muslim Brotherhood strongly objected to the document, saying it clashed with Islamic principles. In Cairo on Thursday the head of the women's council, Mervat Tellawy, called on the Brotherhood to stop using religion to promote its agenda. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Drumming and discontent

Nikki Shawana and her two-year-old son Miikaanhn sing during a round dance protest, part of the Idle No More movement, that blocked an intersection in downtown London, Ont., for about an hour on Thursday.

GEOFF ROBINS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Man who killed cop 'wasn't operating in our world': Lawyer

Distressed. Richard Kachkar's attorney says his client had shown signs of a major mental disorder for years

Richard Kachkar

THE CANADIAN PRESS HANDOUT

A barefoot man who killed a police officer with a stolen snowplow in Toronto after a bizarre rampage through the streets two years ago had clearly lost his grip on reality, his first-degree murder trial heard Thursday.

In closing submissions, defence lawyer Bob Richardson said Richard Kachkar could not be held criminally responsible given his delusional state.

"He lacked capacity to form criminal intent," Richardson told the jury.

"He wasn't operating in our world."

Dressed in light dress pants and shirt under a dark blazer, Kachkar, 44, listened impassively as his lawyer reprised the evidence of three psychiatrists, who concluded he was psychotic when he struck and left a dying Sgt. Ryan Russell, 35, bleeding in the snow.

Richardson reminded jurors how a shoeless Kachkar had bolted from a downtown shelter out into the snow on the early morning of Jan. 12, 2011.

"Whatever slim hold Mr. Kachkar may have had on reality, slips away," Richardson said.

Kachkar went into and then fled a nearby doughnut shop, jumping into the idling snowplow. He drove erratically through the streets, making frequent U-turns, hitting cars and yelling about Chinese technology, the Taliban and microchips in his body.

Richardson quoted Kachkar at another point as saying: "I don't know what happened. It was like a dream or something. A normal person wouldn't do that. I don't know what's going on."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tragic. Cop killed in crash remembered as a fearless woman who loved her job

A young policewoman who achieved her childhood dream of joining the force only to have it cut short by a tragic car crash was remembered Thursday for her fearless approach to life and her unwavering devotion to her community.

Police officers from across Ontario were among the thousands of mourners who gathered to pay tribute to Const. Jennifer Kovach, 26, who was killed last week when her cruiser crossed the centre line and collided with a bus.

That Kovach was responding to another officer's call for assistance at the time only shows how passionate she was about the work she considered her calling, Guelph, Ont., Police Chief Brian Larkin told the sombre crowd that nearly filled a 5,000-seat facility.

"Without fear, she selflessly accepted that call to duty and sacrificed her life for the greater cause and the greater good," said Larkin, describing his colleague as a "young, vibrant and dedicated police officer" who inspired all around her.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pallbearers carry the casket of Const. Jennifer Kovach as her father, Bill, right, looks on during the funeral service in Guelph, Ont., on Thursday.

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Testifying

PM's aide appears at Magnotta hearing

A senior confidante to Prime Minister Stephen Harper testified Thursday at the preliminary hearing in Montreal of a gruesome killing-and-dismemberment case. Jenni Byrne has held various high-ranking roles under the Harper Tories and is now the director of political operations for the Conservative Party of Canada. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Northern Manitoba

Details of wolf attack questioned

The bizarre account of a wolf attack on a woman along a lonely stretch of a northern Manitoba highway is being questioned by some wildlife experts.

Dawn Hepp said this week a wolf clamped its jaws around her neck after she stopped to help another motorist March 8.

Paul Paquet, author of a best-selling book on wolves, says something happened but he has doubts about the details of the attack.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TVO. Public broadcaster to face questions about pipeline-bombing game

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne says she'll be looking into an online game promoted by a taxpayer-funded broadcaster that shows the bombing of a gas pipeline.

A blog post supporting the game appeared on the website of the provincially funded broadcaster TV Ontario.

The TVO website also provides a link to the game, called Pipe Trouble, and offers a free trial.

But questions have been raised about the game's introductory video, which appears to show activists protesting before a pipeline blows up.

The TVO blog describes Pipe Trouble as a "companion ethical game" to a documentary that deals with local opposition to pipelines and the bombing of pipelines in Peace River, B.C.

TVO says the game uses "over-the-top satire to cleverly explore the two sides of the energy extraction debate."

Wynne said Thursday she would like more information from TVO about the game and has asked the Minister of Education to obtain it.

Wynne said she knew nothing about the game.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Somewhat disturbing'

"It sounds somewhat disturbing to me on the face of it. So I'm going to ask the minister of education to have that conversation about TVO because I think there does need to be a question asked about that," said Premier Wynne.

- Players can buy the game for $1.99, with a portion of the proceeds going to the David Suzuki Foundation.
- Tory MPP Vic Fedeli said it's not appropriate for TVO to be promoting a game that makes money for another organization.

Greenpeace on Jerusalem's Bridge of Strings

An Ultra Orthodox Jewish youth looks at Greenpeace activists as they place a large banner on a famous bridge at the western entrance to Jerusalem on Thursday. Greenpeace activists protested against exploratory Arctic drilling during U.S. President Barack Obama's visit to the region. It is Obama's first official visit to Israel since being elected four years ago.

SEBASTIAN SCHEINER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Anonymous

Editor denies aiding hackers

A Reuters social media editor accused of conspiring with hackers to deface a Los Angeles Times story has posted a statement on Facebook saying he did not commit the crime.

Prosecutors say 26-year-old Matthew Keys provided the hacking group Anonymous with login info to access the computer system of The Tribune Co., the Times' parent company. According to the indictment, a hacker altered a Times article.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

South Korea

Attack traced to Chinese IP address

Investigators have traced a co-ordinated cyberattack that paralyzed tens of thousands of computers at six South Korean banks and media companies to a Chinese Internet Protocol address. But it's still unclear who orchestrated the attack. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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1950s
Marilyn Monroe

1960s
Twiggy

1970s
Farrah Fawcett

Beautiful in

Today, bombshells explode on the scene and quickly disappear. There's no iconic image of beauty to represent the past decade. Angelina Jolie's impossible curves are still sexy, but so are Tina Fey's intelligence and Serena Williams' athleticism. **Melita Kuburas** explores why this esthetic decentralization may be problematic.

I didn't set out to find the Marilyn Monroe of my generation, the one beauty icon that speaks to us all — but then I saw her staring at me.

With her imperfect teeth, messy, bleached hair and morning-after complexion, musician Liza Thorn is the anti-Marilyn, and we need more like her.

Thorn's unlikely ascent as a style icon — she has an affinity for ripped stockings and tattered coats — was featured last month in the New York Times' fashion app The Collection. ("She is a beguiling presence," writes the Times's William Van Meter.) Thorn likely won't capture our attention for long, but the fascination with her carefree look is symbolic of a change that's occurred within the beauty industry. There is no longer a single beauty or style icon that captures our admiration. Bombshells explode onto the scene; we become enraptured, then quickly move on to someone else.

"We used to look to magazine supermodels and to Hollywood celebrities and starlets to define iconic beauty. But not only is Hollywood a little bit more diverse, our definitions and expectations for beauty are far more diverse," says Sidneyeve Matrix, associate professor of media and film at Queen's University in Kingston, Ont.

Matrix says the online space has "democratized" the beauty industry.

"Social media is now a mainstream broadcast platform for us," she says. "We can all chime in and vote for what we think is interesting and smart and beautiful."

Thanks to Instagram, Tumblr and YouTube, we've replaced yesterday's beauty emblems with our own, more diverse images and content, Matrix says.

You don't have to be a magazine editor to review makeup, attend Fashion Week or participate in trunk shows or store openings.

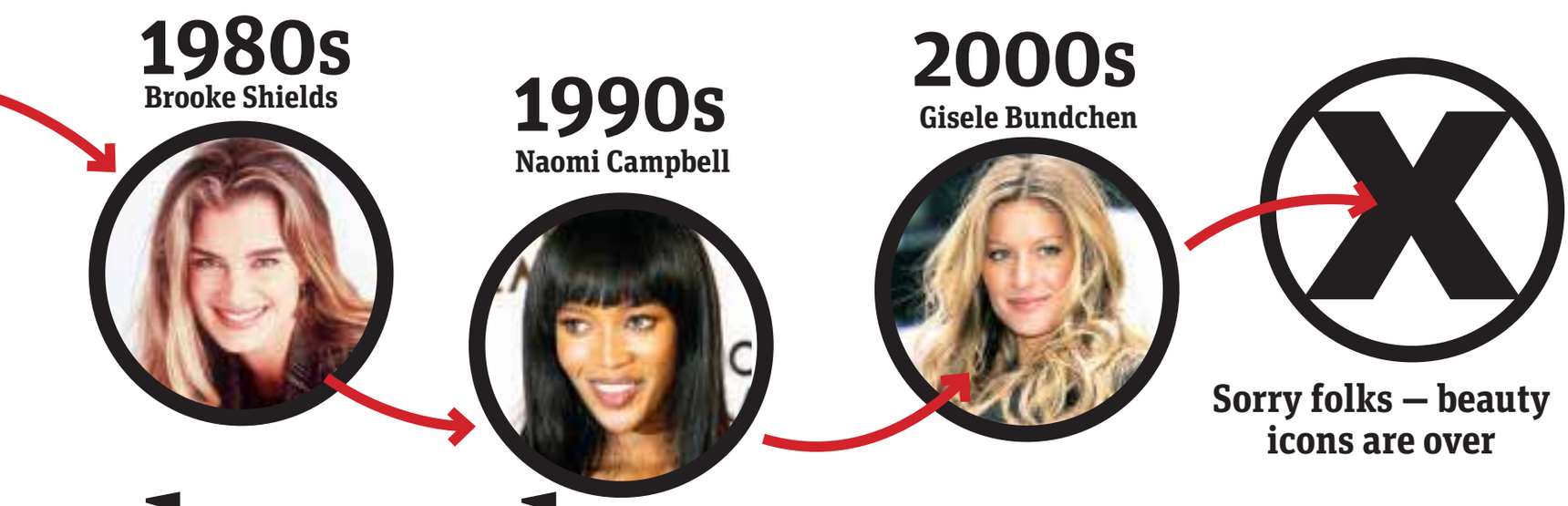
Those are some of the perks Kerrilyn Wong has enjoyed since she started writing her blog, There's Something About Kerri. Wong, 26, has a knack for spotting unique pieces and putting together enviable outfits. But she gravitated to beauty blogs for another reason — at five-foot-four, she couldn't relate to the leggy models in magazines.

"Their body proportions were not similar to mine," writes Wong from Vancouver, where she's a student at BCIT. "The hemline of a dress on a magazine model may fall above her knees, but for shorter girls, it may fall to their calves and make them appear stubby."

Beauty blogs are seen as more relatable than mainstream publications because the bloggers evince insecurities

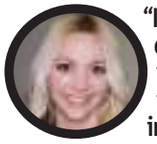
Exclusively online

A face-research lab compiled numerous images of faces to create one composite "average" face, and found the result was surprisingly attractive. Metro talked to the researcher who runs the lab. Visit metronews.ca for the interview and to find out how you can make your own composite face. For more on beauty, check out our interactive face map.



Sorry folks — beauty icons are over a heartbeat

Quoted



"If we are feeling insecure, we always want to find a way to make ourselves continue to feel insecure. Having images in the media that are so beautiful and so glamorous keeps us in our place. So there's a part of us that wants it; it feeds that part of us to feel inadequate." **Kimberly Moffit, psychotherapist,** on why we feed on aspirational images of beauty

similar to our own. Wong, for instance, has shared about her own dieting and exercise, talking openly about the body parts she's focusing on toning up.

But that "realness" factor is deceiving, argues Sabrina Maddeaux, managing editor of Toronto Standard, an online publication that covers urban affairs, style and culture. Most popular bloggers are not challenging the status quo, she says.

"I think blogs, social media and 'street style' started off as positive forces for diversity in beauty and fashion, but as they've become more associated, supported and controlled by mainstream media outlets, brands and advertisers, they've become quite harmful," Maddeaux says.

"A lot of these bloggers have risen to fame through the support of major media outlets and brands, who then turn around and use their association with them to say: 'Look at us! We're being real!' But they're just different versions of the same girls they've always featured in magazines and campaigns."

Maddeaux sees a superficial improvement when it comes to diversity in magazines.

Stars like Kim Kardashian, Christina Hendricks and Beyoncé are praised for their "curvier" bodies and accept their stardom as proof that Hollywood supports a healthier body image. But while those women are exceptionally attractive, their beauty — doe eyes, puffy lips, large breasts — is ultimately rather conventional.

"Plus-size models still have to fit into a very specific size range — one that doesn't reflect the majority of women — and even the 'quirky, intelligent' celebrities like Tina Fey still look like most people's prom queen," Maddeaux argues. "Clearly, editorial teams are still way behind the curve on this."

Even though our culture lacks a single personification, there's still a set of standards of beauty and physique that the media continues to enforce, says Kimberly Moffit, a Toronto-based psychotherapist. "I think that can be discouraging for young women."

Both Moffit and Maddeaux are concerned about the idolization of single body parts — Pippa Middleton's butt, Scarlett Johansson's lips, a skinny runway model's "thigh gap."

"The rate at which we speed through icons, and fragmentize them, is actually much more de-humanizing than what we saw in decades past," Maddeaux says.

The transience of contemporary beauty icons has come with its own problems, but there is still a healthier balance than once existed.

"Think about Twiggy and how specific that body type was," Moffit says. "There were probably some women that really struggled because they saw pictures of Twiggy and wished that they could be like her."

When there is a dominant ideal of beauty — whether it's a blond woman with large breasts or a waifish woman with round eyes — we are less likely to see our own qualities as attractive.

A U.K. study published last year found evidence that our "visual diet" affects our acceptance of larger shapes and sizes. The authors say women who were shown pictures of heavier models were afterward more likely to accept theirs as an ideal body type.

If the study is right, then seeing more women with peculiar features like Thorn's praised for their looks may make us feel more accepting of our own.

Cover models not just pretty faces

There are a wide range of cover girls these days because the women's magazine industry is more fragmented, says Kerry Mitchell, a former publisher of women's magazines including Chatelaine and Flare.

"Media is just much more interactive. It's far easier now for consumers to align themselves with groups or tribes they have a particular affinity for," says Mitchell. "One group's idea of beauty or style can be very different than another's and that's OK."

Women have different expectations of different magazines, and cover models and the way they are — or aren't — written about must align with them, she says.

In fashion magazines, "the height of visual artistry is the appeal and you're less interested in the woman. But, in others, looking behind the veil and learning about the life behind the look is highly appealing," she says. For example, Mitchell places Canadian supermodel Coco Rocha among the top of today's beauty icons, in part because she has, over time, connected with a segment of the fashion audience as a person.

"She can be reflected now not just as a canvas for portraying the latest in some great designer's imagination. She has an authentic and legitimate appeal to the women who really care what she has to say," Mitchell says.

No matter what kind of women's magazine a woman is reading, beauty is part of the allure, says Mitchell. "Beautiful visuals and an aspirational quality are always part of the appeal of sinking into your favourite magazine." **JESSICA SMITH/METRO**

That's hot

Gossip columns obsess over it, magazines search for it and Paris Hilton trademarked the phrase, but our concept of what's hot seems to change too quickly to truly define. Beauty, on the other hand, is a little different.

"When I look at what's beautiful, that's people who have a classic beauty," says Lisa Tant, vice-president, fashion editor at Holt Renfrew. "Hot is what's sexy. (It changes) all the time. With Twitter, it can change tomorrow."

According to Dr. Peter Adamson, an otolaryngologist (head and neck surgeon) practising in facial plastic surgery, what we find hot, or attractive, is based on a composite of the hundreds of people we see around us. But apprehending beauty, says Adamson, isn't a matter of opinion so much as a matter of hormones.

"The features we find beautiful are those features we know are derived from high estrogen levels (in women)," he says, adding that high estrogen levels mean high fertility.

For a woman, these features include larger eyes, a smaller nose, a short, triangular jaw line and high cheekbones. For a man, beauty is based on features derived from high levels of androgen, he says. This means smaller eyes, lower brows, a square face, a strong jaw and a bigger nose.

"It's a very hard-wired thing. It's been with us for generations and generations," Adamson says.

Globalization of beauty

There may never be another Marilyn Monroe. Tant is OK with that. According to Tant, there has been a major shift in the beauty world.

"When Marilyn Monroe was considered the look of the decade ... people didn't have a voice. Now, our standard of beauty is much more universal," she says.

The proof is in the magazines, which feature models and celebrities from all over the world. Blond hair and blue eyes have been replaced with an array of different colours.

"The No. 1 model in the world — her name is Joan Smalls; she's from Puerto Rico.... She's not blond hair and blue eyes. Fashion now is global," Tant says.

Adamson not only agrees with Tant; he can explain the phenomenon.

"The beauty ideal is changing, so the reason it's changing is that we're seeing the globalization of beauty," he says.

This shift in beauty has to do with immigration and social media. The more we see different cultures around us, the more we want to emulate their looks.

"The point is, there are many different celebrity and beauty icons today, and they're not all Caucasian, whereas 50 years ago they were," Adamson says. **RITA POLIAKOV/METRO**

Joan Smalls
GETTY IMAGES FILE

Photo credits: Marilyn Monroe: Michael Ochs Archives/Getty Images File; Twiggy: The Associated Press File; Farrah Fawcett: Hulton Archive/Getty Images File; Brooke Shields: Getty Images File; Naomi Campbell: Martial Trezzini/Keystone/The Associated Press File; Gisele Bundchen: Getty Images File

China. Missing tycoon in custody: Newspaper

A Chinese tycoon with ties to mining companies in the U.S., Australia and Africa is missing and a newspaper says he has been detained by police.

Sichuan Jinlu Group said Thursday it is looking for its chairman, Liu Han, and has been unable to contact him. The newspaper Shanghai Securities News said Liu was detained by Beijing police in mid-March while on a business trip to the Chinese capital but gave no indication why he might have been picked up. Chinese police regularly detain people for lengthy questioning without charge or public notice.

148th richest

Liu was No. 148 last year on Forbes magazine's list of the richest Chinese businesspeople, with a fortune estimated at $855 million.

A search for Liu's name on China's most popular microblog service, Sina Weibo, returned the notice, "according to relevant laws and regulations, the results for 'Liu Han' are not displayed" — a possible sign authorities were trying to suppress discussion of his disappearance. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nigeria

Boat carrying 128 capsizes

A search continued Thursday after a boat carrying 128 people capsized off the coast of Nigeria last week.

The head of the Cross River State Emergency Management Agency, Vincent Acquah, said Thursday that rescuers have found nine female bodies off the coast of the city of Calabar, with 90 passengers still missing. He said there were also men and children aboard.

Acquah said the number of survivors rose to 29 Wednesday after 27 people were found further south, near Oran. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deadly riots erupt over ethnic tensions

Myanmar. At least five dead, mosque burned in Buddhist majority city of Meikhtila

At least five people died and a mosque was burned in two days of rioting in a central Myanmar town, in the latest challenge for the government in keeping the peace while making the transition from strong-arm military rule to pluralist democracy.

State-controlled media Thursday night broke their silence on the violence in Meikhtila, with government television announcing that five people had been killed and 39 injured in rioting that was triggered by an argument between a Muslim gold shop owner and his Buddhist customers.

Occasional isolated violence involving Myanmar's majority Buddhist and minority Muslim communities has occurred for decades. But the risk of spreading violence was underlined last year by clashes in the western state of Rakhine between ethnic Rakhine Buddhists and Muslim Rohingya that left about 200 people dead and more than 100,000 homeless.

There was fear the number of dead in Meikhtila would rise because the violence — the country's worst since the clashes in Rakhine state — was continuing.

As nightfall approached Thursday, the situation remained tense, although a curfew was apparently put in force for a second night.

Several Muslim-owned shops and at least one mosque were burned Wednesday. Showing sensitivity to the threat of further inflaming feelings, state television said one "religious building" was destroyed along with a township education office, some shops and some vehicles.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Smoke and flames billow from a burning building set ablaze in Meikhtila, where ethnic unrest between Buddhists and Muslims continued, in Myanmar, Thursday. At least five people have died and a mosque has been burned in two days of rioting. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Assad supporters hack BBC Twitter accounts

Online security. Prank is latest in string of web attacks by group called Syrian Electronic Army

Supporters of Syrian President Bashar Assad hijacked the Twitter accounts of the BBC's weather and Arabic services on Thursday and posted messages that were by turns political, anti-Semitic and comical.

The BBC confirmed that several accounts had been hacked, saying that it is "actively working" on the issues and expected them to be resolved shortly.

The hackers identified themselves as members of the Syrian Electronic Army, a group that has carried out a string of web attacks against targets such as Al-Jazeera, which it sees as sympathetic to Syria's rebels.

The BBC Weather, BBC Arabic and BBC Radio Ulster accounts appear to have been the targets. Among the messages posted on the BBC Weather Twitter account were "Long Live Syria Al-Assad" and "Saudi weather station down due to head-on collision with camel."

A further message claimed Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan ordered terrorists to launch chemical weapons at civilian areas in North Syria.

The hackers posted about 10 messages before signing off.

"Sorry about that, we were hacked. Normal service resumes," the account later posted after the offending tweets were deleted. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A screenshot of the BBC weather service's Twitter account on Thursday, after it was hacked along with two other BBC accounts. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Overtime pay

Class-action suits against Scotiabank, CIBC can proceed

The Supreme Court of Canada has cleared the way for two class-action lawsuits against CIBC and Scotiabank seeking hundreds of millions of dollars in unpaid overtime to go ahead. The lawsuits allege thousands of workers were denied overtime pay even though they were assigned more work than could be completed within their standard hours. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Streamlining

Coca-Cola to cut 750 jobs in U.S.

Coca-Cola says it's chopping 750 jobs in the U.S. as it continues to streamline its business. The world's biggest beverage maker says the cuts will be across the board and that affected individuals will be notified in coming weeks. The reductions represent roughly one per cent of the company's workforce of 75,000 in North America. A spokesman says about a quarter of the jobs will be in Atlanta, where the company is based. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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401 ACADIA DRIVE, SASKATOON, SK S7H 2E7 655-3600

Clarification?

We posted Batman story, not hackers, Vatican says

One of the Vatican's main Twitter accounts and the website of its communications office were running stories about Batman, raising concerns it might have been hacked.

A Vatican communications adviser Greg Burke, however, said the sites had not been hacked and that the story is a legitimate Catholic News Service story. "Admittedly some people might have been thrown off by the headline," he said.

The website of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications on Thursday was running a story with the headline "Holy Switcheroo: Batman has grown bitter, more vengeful with the years." The office's Twitter handle @pccs-va sent a tweet with that headline and a link to the story.

Earlier this week, the Twitter account of a senior Vatican official was hacked. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Q4. Lululemon says pants recall put customer loyalty ahead of, er, bottom line

Lululemon Athletica Inc., the Vancouver-based retailer of workout gear, admits the recent recall of its black Luon pants will put the pinch on earnings this year, but says keeping customer loyalty is paramount.

"Delivering the top quality our guests expect is a critical factor in our differentiation in the marketplace," CEO Christine Day said in delivering an upbeat fourth-quarter earnings report Thursday that slightly exceeded analysts' expectations.

The company said earlier this week it was pulling some of its stretchy black pants from its shelves because of manufacturing problems that made them too sheer.

Day said it wasn't known whether it was the ingredients, specific manufacturers or problems with the manufacturing process that caused the black Luon pants to be too sheer. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Banking. TD Canada Trust website is forced offline by denial-of-service attack

TD Canada Trust says it was hit by a "targeted" cyber attack Thursday, forcing its banking website and mobile banking service to go offline for several hours. The bank says the denial-of-service attack occurred mid-morning and prevented its customers from logging on to its website and mobile site.

A denial-of-service attack occurs when hackers flood a website with a large amount of fake traffic, thus preventing others from gaining access.

Bank spokeswoman Barbara Timmins said the attack had no effect on clients' personal information or accounts and that most of the services were up and running by mid-afternoon. "This was a service-disruption issue," Timmins said. "There was no compromise to customer data." The breach did not affect branch banking, telephone banking or ATMs. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 97.63¢ (+0.11¢)

TSX 12,747.87 (-78.68)

OIL $92.45 US (-$1.05)

GOLD $1,613.80 US (+$6.30)

Natural gas: $3.93 US (-3¢)
Dow Jones: 14,421.49 (-90.24)

WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU SHEER LEMONS

THE METRO LIST

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

1 Lulu of a lemon. Yoga togs manufacturer recalls its Luon yoga pants because if you look closely enough, you can see through them. I'm not sure why that's a problem, but the recall has led to a critical yoga-pants shortage (really?). On the other hand, it's led to an over-abundance of clever headlines, like this one from fashionista.com: I See London, I See France: Lululemon Recalls See-through Yoga Pants.

2 Don't cry for me, Argentina. But you can say a prayer if you like. The first non-European pope in a zillion years channels the beloved St. Francis of Assisi and advocates on behalf of the poor and the environment. But if you're a gay couple that wants to get married, save your prayer for the next one, maybe.

3 Global village idiot. Let me see if I've got this: Cyprus, the world's 159th biggest country, is a tax haven for Russian oligarchs. Its banks invest in Greece (not smart); then Greece goes belly-up, and Cyprus wants a bailout. The EU tells Cyprus to eat baklava, so Cyprus gets the bright idea to plunder people's personal savings, but before they can, the Russian oligarchs take all their money out of Cypriot banks. This has led to unstable markets around the world. It's random, dude …

4 Crouching Tiger, hidden dragon lady? Tiger Woods and Lindsey Vonn are dating. He's won 76 PGA tour events and she's won 59 World Cup ski races. She's been the athlete of the year (2010). He's been the athlete of the decade (2009). I'm already looking forward to the breakup. Should be world-class.

5 Lean in, fall down. OK, girlfriend, you're trying to make partner at a national law firm, you're getting your master's in quantum physics, you have two children in pre-Ivy league boarding school, you're a gourmet cook, you're the CEO of home. Now you have to read this stupid book by some Facebook COO that says you're not trying hard enough to rule the world. Lean in on this, Sheryl Sandberg.

6 Fiscal fine print. Thursday's federal budget was pretty boring unless you're a tax lawyer or a business editor. Except for this item: Ottawa to raise tariff on goods from 72 countries, except baby clothes and hockey equipment, which are exempt. So that's Stephen Harper's plan for Canada.

7 2013, A Space Oddity. Voyager 1, launched in 1977, is now 12 billion miles from home, and according to the American Geophysical Union, it has left the solar system. Then, a few hours later, the AGU backed off its original statement, saying only that the little vessel has entered a new region of space. Could be the first recorded case of cosmic premature ejaculation.

Follow The Metro List on Twitter @TheMetroList

ZOOM

Toronto birds hitting the wall

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ROM exhibits thousands of dead birds

The bodies of about 2,400 birds that died in collisions with buildings while trying to navigate through Toronto's skyline were on display at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto Thursday.

The exhibit is part of an annual public awareness campaign launched by the Fatal Light Awareness Program. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Look out

1M

The exhibit includes 91 species and represents only a small sample of the estimated one million birds that die annually in collisions with Toronto buildings, mostly office towers.

Charges dropped against developer

Last month, an Ontario judge found that the owner of a Toronto office building was responsible for the deaths of hundreds of birds that flew into its highly reflective windows. However, the judge acquitted the owner because it did due diligence in trying to rectify the problem. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Clickbait

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

If you're reading this on transit, chances are good there's an ad for a radio station nearby. Chances are equally good it's pushing the same handful of artists you can hear just as easily by shopping at the mall. So why not check out these Canadian music blogs and discover something new?

GETTY

Silent Shout
Named after The Knife's revered 2006 album, it's the ultimate bookmark for those who like their electronic music dark and a little menacing. (silentshout.ca)

Weird Canada
Whatever genre is your jam, this relentless crew will find gold for you. Bonus feature: the vivid song descriptions are second to none. (weirdcanada.com)

Quick Before It Melts
A daily dose of gems from Canadian bands, reliably curated with impeccable taste. (quickbeforeitmelts.com)

Twitter

@metropicks asked: Cheaper gas? More housing? What would you like to see included in the federal budget? #eap13

@ibew_sparky: raise minimum wage

@seanorr: A completely re-worked economy favouring renewable energy and not hinged on constant growth at any cost, divestment in military

@Samyzz: I would like there to be more housing, including for youth in poverty. Also more financial aid to those unemployed for a year.

@ermahgerd_amber: #toronto without #robford. that's gotta be within the budget, somewhere. #eap13 #TOpoli

@Jordan_Daniels: #eap13 A look at how to make #Vancouver a more affordable place to live! Then we would be the BEST PLACE TO LIVE!

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU: Send us your comments: saskatoonletters@metronews.ca

metro
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Synopsis

When a judgment call costs him his job as a personal security guard to the president of the United States (Aaron Eckhart), Mike Banning (Gerard Butler) is reassigned to a desk job in the Treasury Department. He wants his old job back and a second chance to show he has the right stuff. He gets another crack at it when North Korean terrorists invade Washington, overtake the White House, killing POTUS's entire security team and kidnapping the prez. As the only man left with a gun and knowledge of the White House's security systems, he alone must protect the future of the free world!

- Richard: ●●●○○
- Mark: ●●●○○

Gerard Butler is the only one who can save the day in Olympus Has Fallen. HANDOUT

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

Fallin' for the action

Olympus Has Fallen.

By-the-book hostage flick is full of bombs, bodies and bad guys

Richard: Olympus Has Fallen is about as standard as action movies get. It's so standard that the two most presidential of actors — Aaron Eckhart and Morgan Freeman — both play the Commander in Chief. This movie has everything you expect, which, if you have low expectations — and you should — is guns, bombs and at least one character who comforts a mortally wounded man with the words, "C'mon! Hang in there!"

Imagine Red Dawn with fewer teenagers and a bigger body count.

Mark: With a plot ripped from the pages of season 3 of 24, the movie still satisfies the craving for high body count and low originality. If you like to think one man can make a difference then this is the film for you. A B minus movie to be sure but with A level actors and direction.

RC: I liked how director Antoine "Training Day" Fuqua embraces the '80s-style B-movieness of it all. It's all bash, boom, bang with a side of motive — evil North Korean mastermind Rick Yune wants to reignite the Korean civil war the U.S. interrupted — and the kind of patriotism that only ever shows up in movies like this. For example, Banning crushes a bad guy's skull with a statue of Abraham Lincoln.

MB: I think this movie might have a different effect on Canadian audiences who wouldn't be quite so moved to patriotism. And remember, when some nutcase stormed into 24 Sussex during the Chrétien era, the PM brained him with an Eskimo carving. Game over!

RC: Ha! This movie isn't really about the patriotism, or any of that flag-waving stuff. It's all about the body count. The first 20 minutes or so is spent on "character development," an attempt to make stock characters — like the charming but fearless Secret Service agent — but it really begins with the audacious attack and the ensuing mayhem. I think if you had a poster of Dolph Lundgren on your wall in 1984 or rent JCVD movies today you'll likely find a kindred spirit in Olympus Has Fallen.

MB: Still, I enjoyed this movie because I'm partial to thrillers that take place in one defined space. You mentioned Lundgren but I'm thinking the lead might have been played by Bruce Willis in his early Die Hard days.

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Family/Animation

The Croods

Directors. Chris Sanders, Kirk De Micco

Stars. Nicolas Cage, Emma Stone

In Hollywood, what goes around comes around and so I suppose it's time for a new version of The Flintstones. The Croods is the new modern stone-age family — only this clan is so nervous of colourful prehistoric creatures, they rarely leave their beloved cave — except for their restless daughter of course. While there's nothing quite original in the juvenile dialogue, a few worthy gags and a frantic pace certainly keeps The Croods from ever being a snooze. **STEVE GOW**

Comedy

Admission

Director. Paul Weitz

Stars. Tina Fey, Paul Rudd

As an uptight admissions officer for Princeton University, Tina Fey brings the fragility of 30 Rock's Liz Lemon but hardly as many laughs. When she unwittingly falls for a new-age teacher (Rudd) attempting to get his autodidact student accepted, she's forced to face some harsh truths. Fey may battle contrived plotting and being upstaged by her underused feminist mother (Lily Tomlin), but Admission is still smarter than the average adult comedy. **STEVE GOW**

Quoted

"I've been doing it too much.

"I've lost perspective on what I'm doing. I think it's good for me to take a break and reassess why I'm doing it and how I'm doing it. And I think this is probably a good way to learn about that. I need a break from myself as much as I imagine the audience does."

Ryan Gosling, who has two films out this spring, including The Place Beyond the Pines, on taking a break from acting
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., MAR. 22 TO THURS., MAR. 28. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

Broadway Theatre
715 Broadway Ave.

Blue Alchemy: Stories of Indigo (STC) Sat 1:30 Cabin in the Sky (STC) Tue 7
No Films Showing Today (STC) Fri Mon
Not Dead Yet (STC) Sat 7 Sun 9 Tue 9:30 Thu 9:30
Ésimésac (STC) Sat 9 Sun 7 Wed 9:30

Cineplex Odeon Centre
3510 8th St. East

The Croods 3D (G) Fri 7:50-10:20 Sat 12:20-2:50-5:20-7:50-10:20 Sun 12:20-2:45-5:10-7:40-10:05 Mon-Tue 5:55-8:40 Wed 1:30-6-8:45 Thu 6-8:45
G.I. Joe: Retaliation 3D (PG) Wed 8:05 Thu 5:30-8:05 Identity Thief (14A) Fri 7:55-10:25 Sat 12:25-2:55-5:25-7:55-10:25 Sun 1:35-4:20-6:55-9:35 Mon-Tue 5:45-8:25 Wed-Thu 5:50-8:30 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Jack the Giant Slayer (PG) Fri 7:20-10 Sat 1:50-4:30-7:20-10 Sun 1:50-4:30-7:10-9:50 Mon-Tue 6-8:45 Wed 1-5:55-8:35 Thu 5:55-8:35 Life of Pi (G) Fri 7:05-9:55 Sat-Sun 1:05-4-7:05-9:55 Mon-Thu 5:20-8:15
Oz the Great and Powerful (PG) Wed 1:15-5:25-7:55 Thu 5:25-7:55
Oz the Great and Powerful 3D (PG) Fri 6:50-9:45 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:45-6:50-9:45 Mon-Tue 5:40-8:30
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Fri 7-9:40 Sat 1:25-4:10-7-9:40 Sun 1:25-4-6:45-9:30 Mon-Tue 5:30-8:10 Wed 5:20
Snitch (PG) Fri 7:35-10:10 Sat-Sun 1:55-4:45-7:35-10:10 Mon-Tue 5:25-7:55 Wed 1:10-5:40-8:20 Thu 5:40-8:20

Galaxy Cinemas Saskatoon
347 2nd Ave. South

21 and Over (14A) Fri 5:15-8:05-10:35 Sat 2:30-5:15-8:05-10:35 Sun 12:35-3:10-5:30-8-10:20 Mon-Tue 8:05-10:35 Wed 8-10:20 Thu 7:15 Admission (PG) Fri-Sat 5:25-8-10:40 Sun 2-4:45-7:25-10:05 Mon 7:20-10:05 Tue 8-10:40 Wed 7:20-10:10 Thu 7:20-10:05 Sat 11:30-12:15
Aliens (STC) Mon 7 The Call (14A) Fri 5:55-8:20-10:45 Sat 1:05-3:30-5:55-8:20-10:45 Sun 2:50-5:20-8:10-10:30 Mon-Tue 8:20-10:45 Wed-Thu 8:10-10:30 Chitty Chitty Bang Bang (G) Sat 11 The Croods (G) Sat 11:20-1:40 Sun 1:40 Wed-Thu 7:10-9:40 The Croods 3D (G) Fri 5:10-7-7:40-9:35-10:10 Sat 12:05-2:40-4:10-5:10-7-7:40-9:35-10:10 Sun 12:10-2:40-4:10-5:10-6:50-7:45-9:35-10:10 Mon-Tue 7-7:40-9:35-10:10 Wed-Thu 7:40-10:10
Escape From Planet Earth (G) Fri 4:55-7:20 Sat 2:35-4:55-7:20 Sun 12:20-2:35-4:55-7:15 Mon-Tue 7:20
G.I. Joe: Retaliation 3D (PG) Wed-Thu 7-9:45 Wed-Thu 7:45-10:30
The Host (PG) Thu 9:30
Identity Thief (14A) Fri 4:50-7:35-10:20 Sat-Sun 2:15-4:50-7:35-10:20 Mon 10:15 Tue-Wed 7:35-10:15 Thu 10:15
The Incredible Burt Wonderstone (PG) Fri 5:40-8:10-10:40 Sat 12:20-3:15-5:40-8:10-10:40 Sun 1:30-4:25-7-9:50 Mon-Tue 8:10-10:40 Wed-Thu 7:05-9:50
Jack the Giant Slayer 3D (PG) Fri 5-7:50-10:30 Sat 11:20-2:05-5-7:50-10:30 Sun 2:05-5-7:50-10:30 Mon-Tue 7:50-10:30 Wed 7:50 Thu 7:50-10:25
John Dies at the End (STC) Wed 9:30
The Metropolitan Opera: Maria Stuarda Encore (STC) Sat 11:55
Olympus Has Fallen (14A) Fri 4:40-7:30-10:25 Sat 11-1:50-4:40-7:30-10:25 Sun 1:45-4:30-7:30-10:25 Mon-Tue 7:30-10:25 Wed-Thu 7:25-10:25
Oz the Great and Powerful (PG) Fri 6:25-9:30 Sat-Sun 12-3-6:25-9:30 Mon-Tue 6:25-9:30 Oz the Great and Powerful 3D (PG) Fri 7:10-10:15 Sat-Sun 1-4-7:10-10:15 Mon-Tue 7:10-10:15 Wed-Thu 6:55-10 Royal Opera House: Alice's Adventures in Wonderland (STC) Thu 7:30
Safe Haven (PG) Fri-Tue 10

Roxy Theatre
320 20th St West

Django Unchained (14A) Fri 7:30 Sat-Sun 4-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:30
On the Road (14A) Fri 7 Sat-Sun 2:30-7 Mon-Thu 7 A Royal Affair (14A) Sat-Sun 1

Rainbow Cinemas Saskatoon
The Centre at Circle & 8th

Beautiful Creatures (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:05-7-9:45 Dark Skies (14A) Fri 1:25-4:25-6:45 Sat-Sun 11:05-1:25-4:25-6:45 Mon-Thu 1:25-4:25-6:45
Gangster Squad (14A) Fri-Thu 9:50
A Good Day to Die Hard (14A) Fri-Thu 2-4:35-7:05-9:35 Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters (18A) Fri-Thu 4:20-9:55
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG) Fri-Thu 4:15-7:45 Lincoln (PG) Fri-Thu 9:20 Les Misérables (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-9:05 Parental Guidance (G) Fri 1:55-7:10 Sat-Sun 11:10-1:55-7:10 Mon-Thu 1:55-7:10 Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri 1:40-4:10-7:20 Sat-Sun 11:20-1:40-4:10-7:20 Mon-Thu 1:40-4:10-7:20
Warm Bodies (PG) Fri-Wed 1:10-4:30-6:55 Thu 4:30-6:55 Thu 1
Wreck-It Ralph (G) Fri 1:20-4-6:50 Sat-Sun 11-1:20-4-6:50 Mon-Thu 1:20-4-6:50
Zero Dark Thirty (14A) Fri-Thu 9:15

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British songwriter changes course

Tooth & Nail. Mother's death forces Billy Bragg to re-evaluate his music career

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Billy Bragg's spare, politically charged debut EP Life's a Riot with Spy Vs Spy. But the adaptable British singer/songwriter says he's still trying to figure out his place in this peculiar industry.

Two years ago, the death of Bragg's mother gave him particular reason to pause and re-evaluate his music career. He returned after a five-year absence from recording Tuesday with Tooth & Nail, his first album since 2008's Mr. Love & Justice.

The gently melodic, emotionally tender set has been hailed as a return to form for the 55-year-old in such publications as the Guardian and Mojo.

In an interview with The Canadian Press, Bragg admits he'll be closely watching the reaction to the release.

How did your mother's death set you on a path that led to Tooth & Nail?

Well, my mum passed in early 2011, and I think when something like that happens, you can't fail but look around. All of a sudden there's a generational shift and I'm the oldest person in the family now. It makes you think to yourself: "Why are you doing this? Is what I'm doing worthwhile? Or am I just drifting?"

So I started looking at a practical way of discovering whether there is room in the recording industry in 2013 for Billy Bragg. Or whether what I've been doing for the past five years — which is working at a cottage-industry level, putting out CDs and selling them like T-shirts (at shows) — maybe that's my niche now.

So the release of the album is the culmination of that quest — he says, sounding like Frodo Baggins.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Billy Bragg's spare, politically charged debut EP Life's a Riot with Spy Vs Spy. VEGARD GROTT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Was your mother supportive of your music?

There's a fabulous bit in the (making-of) documentary about (the 1998 album) Mermaid Avenue, where I was sitting on the sofa with her and the director says, "Do you like Billy's records?" And she sort of looks away, and says, "Well, you know, the school did lead us to expect more" (laughs).

She wasn't dismissive of it, but I don't think she wanted me getting on my high horse just because I had been in the newspapers and on the telly. She did choose one of my songs for her own funeral service. So obviously she did like my music after all.

Tooth & Nail is more about love than politics. Why?

The majority of the songs on the record are based in relationships, but that's also partly the nature of the way we hear music now. Now if I write a topical song, I get it uploaded as soon as I can for free download. It's almost like a newscast. As a result of that, when I come to make an album, I find that the predominant songs in my woodshed are songs about deeper things, about emotions. And I don't think that's a bad thing because I would hate for everything to be about politics. I've played with bands like that and they can be a bit hard-going.

When you started this project you wanted to figure out where you stood. Do you have clarity now?

I definitely have a sense of direction again, but what I'm interested to do now is to find out where I fit in the recording industry, because I know where I am in the music industry — people love coming to see me play.

(But) the industry's changing much faster than I can put out records. So when you've worked out where your niche is, the next time you look, the niche isn't even there anymore. I'm not complaining about this, by the way. I'm just being honest.

Rather than being complacent ... we do have to step back and look at it, and try to perhaps tailor what we're doing a little more to where the medium is now.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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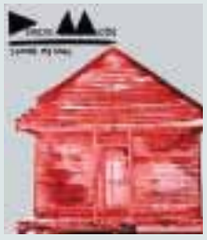
3 Songs for the weekend

Call it retro revenge. Each of these bands may be more than 30 years old but they're not dead yet.

SOUND CHECK
Alan Cross
scene@metronews.ca

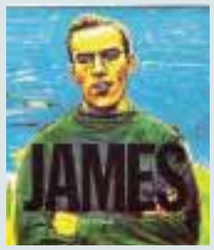


Soothe My Soul/Depeche Mode

The studio version of this new single from the upcoming Delta Machine album was streaming online — and then it wasn't.

Metroland/OMD

The classic line-up has a record called English Electric coming April 8. This sounds like it could be in any mid-80s John Hughes movie.



Sit Down/James

A new video of their classic created especially for Comic Relief's Red Nose Night charity. Proof that a brilliant song is brilliant, no matter how old it is.

Mad Men star Jon Hamm is 'a big fan' of JT's suit and tie

Mad Men star Jon Hamm is going mad over Justin Timberlake's suit and tie — the song and the singer's style.

"I'm a big fan of Justin Timberlake," Hamm said in a recent interview. "I think he's a trendsetter, as they say. But he's always been kind of a natty dresser."

The 42-year-old actor, who says he has an "appreciation for fashion," returns as womanizing ad man Don Draper when season six premieres April 7 on AMC.

Seeing Mad Men style infiltrate pop culture — from Taylor Swift's mod minidress on the March cover of Elle magazine to Timberlake's ode to old Hollywood glamour with his latest hit, Suit & Tie, is the ultimate compliment for Hamm.

"It's nice that our show has had that sort of serendipitous resonance with fashion," he said. "I think it's great. I think it's really cool."

Jon Hamm
GETTY IMAGES

As for Timberlake, Hamm believes the pop star is "a very fashion-forward kind of guy," although the Grammy winner is guilty of at least one "fashion don't."

"That one unfortunate picture of him in that denim tuxedo excused," Hamm said with a smile, referring to Timberlake's all-denim ensemble at the 2001 American Music Awards. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

It's still on: Pattinson reunites with Stewart after filming in Australia

Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson are reunited after his latest stint filming in Australia, and the couple reportedly celebrated by hitting up their favourite local dive bar, L.A.'s Ye Rustic Inn, according to E! News. "They seemed really happy to be with each other. Rob and Kristen were having so much fun together," a source says. "They sat in the back of the bar in a booth and were laughing. At one point, they were standing at the bar and were just being normal, as any boyfriend and girlfriend would be with each other. They were touchy-feely. She was holding on to his jacket and had her hand on his back. They were just being cute."

Jon Hamm

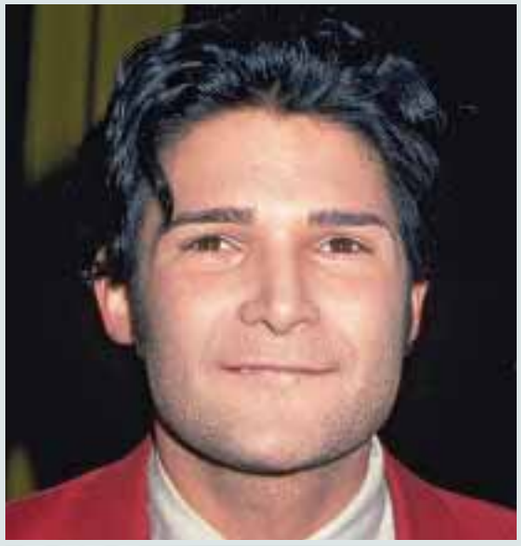
Is that Jon Hamm, or are you just happy to see me?

Jon Hamm's physical attributes are causing quite a stir on the Mad Men set, according to the New York Daily News. "This season takes place in the 1960s, where the pants are very tight and leave little to the imagination," a source tells the newspaper. "Jon's impressive anatomy is so distracting that they politely insisted on underwear." Hamm's rep is not amused. "It is ridiculous and not really funny at all," the rep said. "I'd appreciate you taking the high road and not resorting to something childish like this that's been blogged about 1,000 times."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Is Feldman moonlighting as a sperm donor?

Earlier this week, I wrote about the Jackson family's wrongful death lawsuit against AEG Live for $40 billion and how the entertainment giant wants to get the paternity of Jackson's children entered into court proceedings.

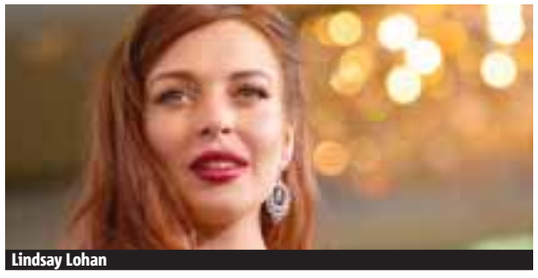
The Jackson family are fighting this, calling into question who actually is the father of Blanket, Paris and Prince Jackson.

And upon further reflection (and Googling), I am pretty confident that the father of Prince Jackson is none other than Corey Feldman. These pictures don't lie, friends. Can someone call Maury Povich?

John John Florence

Watch out, John John ... Taylor Swift has her eye on you

Taylor Swift has reportedly set her sights on 20-year-old pro surfer John John Florence, according to Life & Style, though their budding relationship is still mostly on a telecommunications level. "He and Taylor have been text messaging," a source says. "Apparently she contacted him. I don't think they have hung out yet. They've just been chatting. John John doesn't want to ruin things, so he's being careful not to say too much."



Lindsay Lohan

Rehab doesn't seem to be getting in the way of Lohan's love life

Just because Lindsay Lohan is facing 90 days in rehab doesn't mean she can't keep cultivating her love life. The troubled starlet is rumoured to be dating NYC-based club promoter and musician Avi Snow, according to E! News, though sources say the pair's relationship is still in "the early stages." But Snow was reportedly one of the passengers on the private jet that whisked Lohan to court Monday morning, and after she had her latest mug shot taken the next day she hurried over to a show Snow's band put on at a private Santa Monica club.

Twitter

@aplusk
Are prophylactics having an inverse effect on natural selection?

@RebelWilson
Hey shower curtain! Stop groping me! x

@AlbertBrooks
guess the free toasters from the Cyprus banks are now out of the question.

Liquid Assets

Wine, fresh fare unite

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

Depending on where you are in this great country, the weather may look more like a winter wonderland than spring. Somebody forgot to tell Mother Nature that we had a change of season this week.

While I hate pigeonholing certain wines to particular seasons, fresh, floral whites really do come across like spring in a glass. It doesn't hurt that they pair well with the bright, fresh food fare that tends to get served this time of year.

Wines made with the riesling, gewürztraminer and viognier grapes lead the charge when it comes to whites with plush fruit flavours and aromatics.

Viognier in particular is one of my favourites. Originating in France, it's grown worldwide, always packing its classic tropical depth and subtle pepperiness that pair so well with lighter meats (like pork) and fruit-accented sauces (especially those with a citrusy influence).

Cono Sur's 2011 Bicicleta Viognier ($9.95 - $11.99) from Chile is a budget friendly version with soft lime and lemon accents and just a wink to the grape's spicy persona.

PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.

A fine balance of cherries and coffee

Cherry-Topped Coffee-Roasted Pork Tenderloin. This combination of fresh flavours is ideal to serve during spring

This recipe makes 36 appetizers. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Coffee is becoming a favourite ingredient when roasting meat.

It's an effortless way to add gobs of flavour to your meal. All you do is add whole coffee beans to whatever spice blend you are using as a wet or dry rub, then grind it to a powder and apply to the meat. The coffee provides deep, rich flavours with a hint of acid.

The seasonings can be applied to the meat right before roasting. But if you have time, the flavour is even better if you rub the spices on the meat, then refrigerate it for several hours.

If you're looking for a simple and speedy dinner, make the roasted pork tenderloin in this recipe and serve it as is with a side salad. For something party-worthy, slice it, slap it on rounds of baguette, then top with a dollop of cherry jam.

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp coffee beans
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1 tsp fennel seeds
- 1 tsp smoked paprika
- 1 tsp whole peppercorns
- 1 tsp kosher salt
- 3 lbs pork tenderloins
- 1 baguette, thinly sliced into 36 rounds
- Olive oil
- 10-oz jar cherry jam

1. Heat the oven to 400 F. Line a rimmed baking sheet with foil and coat with cooking spray.

2. In a spice grinder, combine the coffee beans, garlic powder, fennel seeds, paprika, peppercorns and salt. Grind until the beans and seeds are finely ground. Rub the spice-coffee blend evenly and liberally over the tenderloins. Set the tenderloins on the prepared baking sheet, then roast for 20 minutes, or until they reach 145 F at the centre. Remove from the oven and let rest for 5 minutes.

3. Meanwhile, brush the baguette slices with olive oil, then arrange on a baking sheet and toast for 2 minutes, or until just barely browned.

4. When the pork is ready, cut it into thin slices. To serve, place one slice of pork on each piece of baguette, then top with a small dollop of jam.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This recipe serves two. THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Just a hint of sweetness

These delicious and simple Orange-Cranberry Lamb Chops get a sweet makeover with the simple addition of cranberries, orange juice and a touch of Dijon mustard.

Ingredients

- 125 ml (1/2 cup) sugar
- 250 ml (1 cup) cranberries
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) orange juice
- 5 ml (1 tsp) grated orange rind
- 5 ml (1 tsp) Dijon mustard
- Pinch of allspice
- 6 frenched lamb chops or 4 loin chops, 2.5 cm (1 in) thick

1. Preheat oven broiler.

2. In saucepan over medium heat, combine sugar, cranberries, orange juice, rind, Dijon mustard and allspice. Cook until mix boils and cranberries pop (12 minutes). Set aside.

3. In a preheated broiler, 10 cm (4 in) from heat, broil lamb chops on one side for 6 minutes. Turn chops and broil 4 minutes longer. Spoon about 20 ml (one generous teaspoonful) of sauce over each chop. Broil for 1 minute longer. Serve extra sauce on the side, along with parsley potatoes and vegetables julienne.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ LAMBRECIPES.CA (ONTARIO SHEEP MARKETING AGENCY)

Saskatoon Blades left-winger Nick Zajac carries the puck up ice with Medicine Hat Tigers defenceman Derek Ryckman in hot pursuit during Game 1 of their WHL playoff series on Thursday night at Credit Union Centre. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Blades fall to Tigers in post-season opener

WHL. Medicine Hat goaltender's play a bitter pill to swallow for Saskatoon in Game 1

Goaltender Cam Lanigan made 42 saves as the Medicine Hat Tigers dispatched the Saskatoon Blades 4-1 on Thursday to take a 1-0 lead in their Western Hockey League first-round playoff series.

Trevor Cox and Elgin Pearce both had a goal and an assist for Medicine Hat, while Dylan Bredo and captain Hunter Shinkaruk chipped in as well.

Andrey Makarov stopped 29 shots for Saskatoon, while Shane McColgan was the Blades' lone scorer.

The Tigers went 0-for-2 on the power play and McColgan scored on Saskatoon's only man advantage.

Cox and Shinkaruk gave Medicine Hat a 2-0 lead at the first intermission.

McColgan then brought the Blades to within one in the second period.

Pearce made it 3-1 early in the third and then Bredo added extra insurance with an empty-net goal with 13 seconds left in the game.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On Thursday

4	1
Tigers	Blades

CFL

Television deal reportedly worth more than $30M

A significant television deal with TSN/RDS bodes well for the CFL's future, commissioner Mark Cohon said Thursday.

The five-year deal is worth "significantly" more than $30 million a season, according to a source.

That's chump change compared with the television contracts held by the NFL, the NHL and other major sports. But the new CFL deal reportedly is worth more than double the existing $15-million broadcasting package that runs through the end of the 2013 season.

Cohon wouldn't confirm the dollar amount except to say it was a "transformative deal" that would have a major impact on the economic stability of the league and its teams.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NHL

Brodeur doesn't shoot, still scores

New Jersey goalie Martin Brodeur was credited with his third NHL goal when Carolina's Jordan Staal accidently put the puck in his own empty net.

With a delayed penalty call pending against New Jersey's Marek Zidlicky, Staal passed the puck back to the point from behind the net but missed intended target Tim Gleason and the puck bounced off the boards near centre ice and eventually into the net.

Brodeur got credit for the goal because he was the last Devils player to touch the puck.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Homan on a roll heading into Page playoffs

Canada's skip Rachel Homan delivers a stone against China in Riga, Latvia, on Thursday. Canada won 7-4. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A mediocre start nearly derailed Rachel Homan's rink at the world women's curling championship.

The Canadian team stuck together early on as they battled nerves, a tough field and some challenging conditions in Riga, Latvia. The result is a solid third-place finish in the round-robin standings and a four-game winning streak heading into the Page playoff 3-4 matchup.

"They're all feeling very comfortable, calm, focused and confident," said Canadian coach Earle Morris. "Those are the kind of feelings you hope your team has when you're going into the playoffs."

Entering play Thursday, Homan controlled her own playoff destiny but was still flirting with the cutline. She beat China's Bingyu Wang 7-4 in the morning and locked up the third seed with an 8-4 win over Japan's Satsuki Fujisawa in the afternoon.

Canada's next game is Saturday afternoon. Russia and Switzerland will play a tiebreaker Friday morning with the winner to face the United States in the second tiebreaker with the fourth seed on the line.

Scotland and Sweden finished 10-1 and will meet in the Page playoff 1-2 game Friday night. THE CANADIAN PRESS

History of excellence

Canada leads all countries with 29 podium appearances and 15 gold medals in the tournament's 34-year history.

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You may not think of yourself as a peacemaker but you will certainly be the one who calms things down today. Maybe it's because you believe in justice, but you will do your utmost to negotiate a truce.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
If you are convinced that what you are doing is right then what others think or say about it is irrelevant. Since when have you been the type to ask other people for permission?

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
No one lives in isolation and what takes place over the next few hours will confirm that in a rather nice way. Just when you thought you were struggling all on your own, you discover you have genuine friends.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Someone in authority will look favourably on you today and you must take advantage of it. If you can, work your way into a position where you can showcase your many talents. That "someone in authority" could soon be you.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Everything looks right with your world at the moment and with Venus moving in your favour today, whatever you do will work out just fine. That is if you can be bothered to make an effort.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Because you have been proved right, you may find it hard to be modest today but try not to be too self-congratulatory. If you boast too loudly, someone may try to burst your bubble.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
If you maintain a positive attitude over the next 24 hours, there is a real chance that at least one of your fantasies will become a reality. Let's hope your heart is in good condition. The shock could be too much!

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Some of your friends may not have been supportive of late but that does not mean they are turning against you. On the contrary, they are still very much on your side, it's just that they've been too busy to help.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
With Venus joining the Sun in your fellow Fire sign of Aries today, you are flavour of the month. In your life and at work be the best you can be, and the world will love you for it.

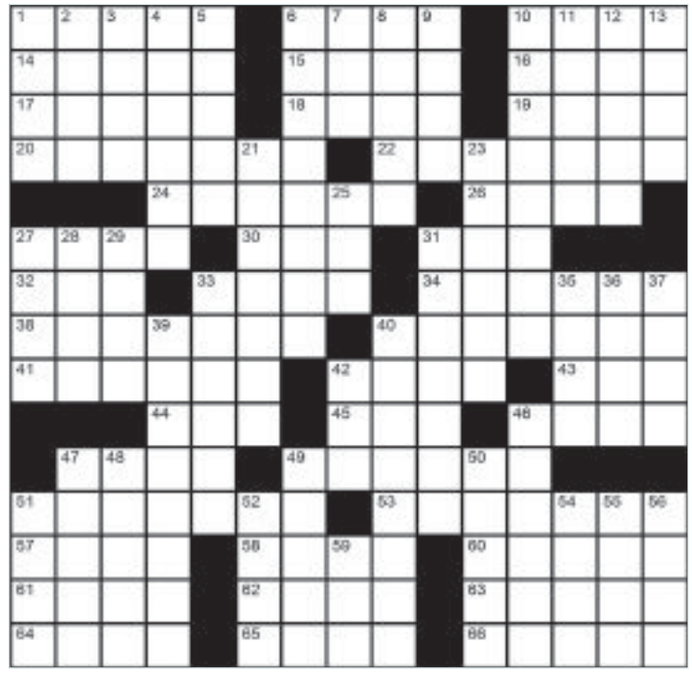
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Don't be afraid to tell others what you think today, but wrap it up in a thick layer of sugar coating. They will appreciatet that you avoided hurting their feelings.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
According to the planets, you are reluctant to get too involved in a situation that you fear could be emotionally traumatic. You are right to keep your distance but don't cut yourself off altogether. Be available if a crisis occurs.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Venus, planet of emotional and material values, leaves your birth sign today, but that is not a cause for despair. In fact, it could have very good results financially. Replenish your bank account. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

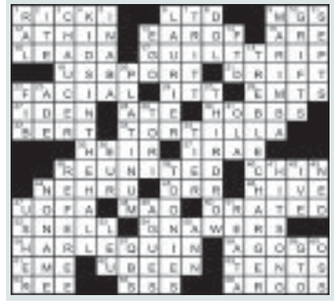
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Straighten
6. __ of St. Lawrence
10. Berth
14. Inner circle
15. Bob Dylan's "The Times They __-_ Changin'"
16. Proactiv target
17. Sag
18. Safari sound!
19. 'Twilight' movies actress Nikki
20. Bow River city
22. Hedley singer, Jacob __
24. With pleasure
26. Grandmothers, to some
27. Small horse
30. Icky-__ (Yucky)
31. Distant
32. Philippines volcano, Mount __
33. Hearty meal
34. Antarctica volcano, Mount __
38. Pamela Wallin or Mike Duffy
40. "The __ Falcon" (1941)
41. Sports star, often
42. Taverns
43. Can
44. Home base, for short
45. London, __.
46. Music duo, __ Punk
47. Casually trendy student, nicknamed
49. Kevin of CBC's "Dragons' Den"
51. Canadian classic show, "Mr. __"
53. Toronto-born singer/songwriter Ms. Myles
57. Brewer's kiln
58. Book genre, for short
60. Singer, Frankie __
61. Comical dog
62. "Take a Chance __" by ABBA: 2 wds.
63. Be a ham on stage
64. Horse's hair
65. Burn slightly in cooking
66. "It's __ __ Never" by Elvis Presley

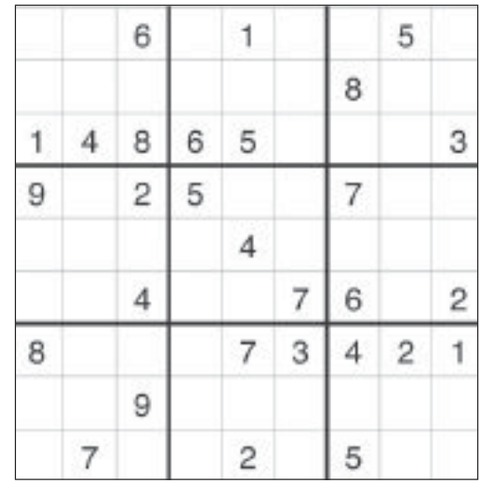
Down
1. "Back in Black" rockers
2. "__ Croft: Tomb Raider" (2001)
3. "American __"
4. Dazed
5. Mountainous land
6. Canada's Ambassador to the United States: 2 wds.
7. Prefix that means 'Tail'
8. Band from Lakefield, Ontario
9. Gambling card game
10. Justin Trudeau's mom
11. Arctic, for one
12. Niners - Eighters = __
13. Mr. Foxx of '70s TV
21. Toronto's basketball team
23. "Crazy" by __ Barkley
25. Down
27. Go through
28. International oil gr.
29. Faux pas
31. "A Good Heart" by __ Sharkey
33. Prepares tea
35. Test version, as per software
36. '60s song: "Catch __ __ You Can"
37. E-Mailed
39. One getting the handcuffs
40. Nelly Furtado song
42. "The Fresh Prince of __-Air"
46. Go-getter
47. "The Devil Wears __" (2006)
48. Pine tree stuff
49. Offer one's point of view
50. Character in Haida mythology
51. Gloom's partner
52. ET-piloted crafts
54. Sugar substitute, Sweet'_ __
55. Opera voice
56. Yesterday: French
59. Nashville music trophy, for short

Yesterday's Crossword



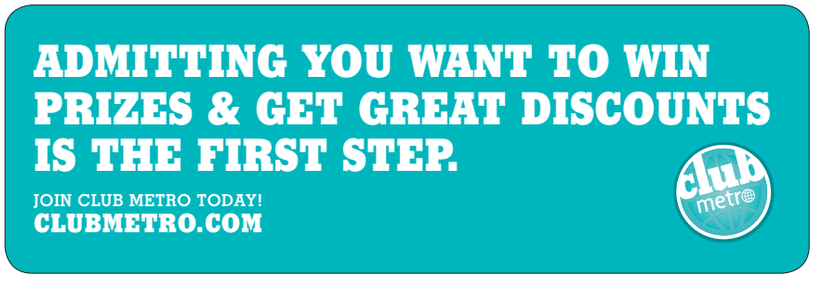
Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



Yesterday's Sudoku

1	9	5	6	4	8	3	7	2
6	4	3	2	7	1	5	9	8
7	8	2	5	9	3	6	1	4
8	2	1	7	3	9	4	5	6
5	6	9	4	8	2	1	3	7
3	7	4	1	5	6	8	2	9
2	1	7	8	6	5	9	4	3
9	5	8	3	2	4	7	6	1
4	3	6	9	1	7	2	8	5



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